

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover, comprising:
  - 5 an upper portion configured to cover a portion of a backrest;
  - a lower portion configured to cover a portion of a seat cushion;
  - a first and second elasticized flap, each flap positioned near a lateral edge of a junction of a backrest and a seat cushion, the flaps cooperating to define a containment area therebetween.
- 10 2. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 1, wherein the seat cover is formed from a nonwoven fabric.
- 15 3. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a stain resistance from about 4 to about 5 for blueberry, instant coffee, gravy, wine, tea, clay, ketchup, beef blood, mustard, chocolate syrup, and grape juice.
- 20 4. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a colorfastness to light from about 4.5 to about 5.
- 25 5. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a pilling resistance before laundering from about 3 to about 5 and a pilling resistance after laundering from about 3 to about 5.
6. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the nonwoven fabric has dimensional change after one laundering of about 3.0 percent or less and a dimensional change after five launderings of about 4.5 percent or less.

7. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the nonwoven fabric has an abrasion resistance flex in the warp direction from about 100 cycles to about 300 cycles and an abrasion resistance flex in the filling direction from about 40 cycles to about 140 cycles.

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8. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a colorfastness to laundering from about 4.5 to about 5.

9. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the  
10 nonwoven fabric has a hydrostatic water resistance from about 4.5 millibars to about 55.0 millibars.

10. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 2, wherein the fabric comprises more than one layer.

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11. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 10, wherein at least one layer includes nonwoven material.

12. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 10, wherein the  
20 layers each comprise different fabrics.

13. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 1, wherein each of the elasticized flaps is elasticized by at least one tension elastic member applied thereto.

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14. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 13, wherein the at least one elastic member is applied to each of the flaps with a first preselected tension.

30 15. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 14, wherein the first preselected tension is sufficient to cause a substantial portion of each flap to be supported in an upright position and extend away from the vehicle seat cover when the vehicle seat cover is positioned on a vehicle seat.

16. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 15, wherein each flap in the upright position provides a barrier which is configured to provide at least a portion of the containment area.
- 5 17. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 15, wherein each flap is positioned at an angle of about 25 degrees to about 120 degrees with respect to a centerline of the vehicle car seat.
- 10 18. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 17, wherein each flap is positioned at an angle of about 40 degrees to about 100 degrees with respect to a centerline of the vehicle car seat.
- 15 19. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 15, wherein each flap has at least a second elastic member applied thereto.
20. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 19, wherein the second elastic member is applied adjacent the first elastic member, and the second elastic member includes a second preselected tension, the second preselected tension configured to be one of greater than, less than and equal to the first preselected tension.
- 25 21. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 20, wherein the second elastic member cooperates with the first elastic member to cause a substantial portion of each flap to extend away from the vehicle seat cover when the vehicle seat cover is applied to a vehicle seat.
22. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 1, wherein each flap is integrally formed with the vehicle seat cover.
- 30 23. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 1, wherein each flap is formed separately and connected to the vehicle seat cover.

24. A washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover, comprising:
  - an upper portion configured to cover a portion of a backrest; and
  - a lower portion configured to cover a portion of a seat cushion;
  - wherein the vehicle seat cover is formed from a nonwoven fabric which has
- 5 a basis weight from between about 0.15 osy to about 8.0 osy, an air permeability from about 60 ft<sup>3</sup>min/ft<sup>2</sup> to about 110 ft<sup>3</sup>min/ft<sup>2</sup>, and a stain resistance from about 4 to about 5 for blueberry, instant coffee, gravy, and wine.
- 10 25. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a stain resistance from about 4 to about 5 for tea, clay, ketchup, beef blood, mustard, chocolate syrup, and grape juice.
- 15 26. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a colorfastness to light from about 4.5 to about 5.
- 20 27. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a pilling resistance before laundering from about 3 to about 5 and a pilling resistance after laundering from about 3 to about 5.
28. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the nonwoven fabric has dimensional change after one laundering of about 3.0 percent or less and a dimensional change after five launderings of about 4.5 percent or less.

29. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the nonwoven fabric has an abrasion resistance flex in the warp direction from about 100 cycles to about 300 cycles and an abrasion resistance flex in the filling direction from about 40 cycles to about 140 cycles.

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30. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a colorfastness to laundering from about 4.5 to about 5.

31. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the  
10 nonwoven fabric has a hydrostatic water resistance from about 4.5 millibars to about 55.0 millibars.

32. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 24, wherein the seat cover includes a pair of spaced-apart elasticized flaps, each flap elasticized  
15 by at least one tension elastic member applied thereto, and wherein the at least one elastic member is applied to each of the flaps with a first preselected tension.

33. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 32, wherein the first preselected tension is sufficient to cause a substantial portion of each flap to extend away from the vehicle seat cover when the vehicle seat cover is positioned  
20 on a vehicle seat.

34. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 32, wherein each flap has at least a second elastic member applied thereto, and wherein the second  
25 elastic member is applied adjacent the first elastic member, and the second elastic member includes a second preselected tension, the second preselected tension configured to be one of greater than, less than and equal to the first preselected tension.

30 35. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 34, wherein the second elastic member cooperates with the first elastic member to cause a substantial portion of each flap to extend away from the vehicle seat cover when the vehicle seat cover is applied to a vehicle seat.

36. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 32, wherein each flap is integrally formed with the vehicle seat cover.

37. The washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover of claim 32, wherein each  
5 flap is formed separately and connected to the vehicle seat cover.

38. A washable, stain-resistant vehicle seat cover, comprising:  
an upper portion configured to cover a portion of a backrest;  
a lower portion configured to cover a portion of a seat cushion;  
10 a pair of elasticized flaps which therebetween define a containment area,  
wherein the vehicle seat cover is formed from a nonwoven fabric which has a basis  
weight from between about 0.15 osy to about 8.0 osy, an air permeability from  
about 60 ft<sup>3</sup>min/ft<sup>2</sup> to about 110 ft<sup>3</sup>min/ft<sup>2</sup>, and a stain resistance from about 4 to  
about 5 for blueberry, instant coffee, gravy, and wine.